

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of New Covenant

Growing congregations that passionately engage their communities to make disciples.

## We're Meeting at Northwoods on November 18!



Did you know that you don't have to be a commissioner to attend presbytery meetings? Everyone might be interested in the workshop topics that are being offered at our next stated meeting on Saturday, November 18. Would you like to learn about how to help the vitality of your congregation? How about the overture process and how to get business in front of the General Assembly? Would you like to learn how to use technology more effectively in your meetings? We have a workshop for you! The complete list will be available in the presbytery meeting materials which will be online in early November.

The 45 minute workshops will be held after morning worship, where Moderator David Green will preach, and Moderator Elect Bob Patterson

will be installed. Attendees will have the opportunity to take part in two learning experiences. After lunch, we will have a candidate preaching for ordination, and do the other business of the presbytery.



Bob Patterson have striven for a time for worship, a time for learning, and a time for business. We had fruitful discussion about the presbytery at our last meeting. We hope that people want to get to know each other, and build relationships, so we are trying this workshop format (instead of having an outsider come and bring a keynote address).

If you are not a voting commissioner, and are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Lynn Hargrove, [lhargrove@](mailto:lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org)

[pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://pbyofnewcovenant.org) so we know you're coming. The registration form will be online with the other meeting materials. We do not register in advance, and it would be helpful to have an idea about how many people will be attending so that we will have a lunch for you!

We hope to see you at Northwoods on Saturday, November 18. The meeting starts at 9:00 am.

Join us for a visit with  
Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill,  
Associate for Church Vitality, PC(USA)

Friday, November 17  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
at the Presbytery Center  
1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston

See page 3 for more information  
on the FREE event.

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## NEW COVENANT CONNECTIONS

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LYNN HARGROVE  
*Editor*

CARRIE WALKER  
*Layout*

PATRICIA BRANTLEY  
*Circulation Manager*

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Email: [lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org)

Send changes of address to:  
Patricia Brantley  
[pbrantley@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:pbrantley@pbyofnewcovenant.org)

The Presbytery of New Covenant  
[www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org)



## Making History Today

Rev. Dr. James S. Currie, Executive Secretary  
Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest

### A Candle Lit in the Darkness

“In December 1999”, writes Stanley Weintraub, “a group of nine quirky ‘Khaki Chums’ crossed the English Channel to Flanders...” These nine wore makeshift military uniforms, dug trenches in the rain and snow, and reinforced them with sandbags and planks. For several days these men cooked their rations, slept in the mud, and were soaked to the skin. When they were through and left, they set up “a large timber cross in quagmire as a temporary mark of respect for the wartime dead” (Weintraub, **Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce**, p. xvii-xviii). That cross, set now in a concrete base, is the only reminder of what was an extraordinary event that took place 85 years earlier.

It was a most remarkable event that those nine men commemorated in 1999. The war between Germany and Austria, on the one hand, and Britain, France, Belgium, and Russia, on the other, had started in July 1914 when Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in Sarajevo. In December, near the border between Belgium and France, near the town of Ypres, German soldiers were fighting British and French soldiers. Fraternization between enemy soldiers was a court-martial offense. Yet, on Christmas Eve that year across the “no man’s land” enemy soldiers not only exchanged friendly words, but they also exchanged tobacco and candy, among other things.

On that Christmas Eve a truce was announced not among the generals, but among the soldiers. They began to emerge from trenches, Christmas songs were sung, cigarettes were shared, and a soccer game was played. For at least a few hours arms were put down and

there was an outbreak of peace in the midst of war as well as camaraderie and friendship among the combatants. Or, as Weintraub puts it, “a candle lit in the darkness of Flanders.”

Whether it’s caroling on the Houston ship channel to seafarers we will never meet, or a gathering of family and friends, or a Candlelight Communion worship service, or visiting a nursing home to those who have no family, Christmas is an opportunity to pause and light a candle in the darkness of this world. It reminds us of that one who is the light of the world and who entered this world in a very dark place in a very dark time.

The challenge, of course, is for us to live as reflections of that one who is the Prince of Peace not simply at Christmas, but the rest of the year as well. As we experience the Advent and Christmas season, may we pray for the peace of Christ throughout the world, and in our own lives and in our relationships with others. May the peace of Christ be with you -- now and always.





## Clerk's Corner

Rev. Lynn Hargrove, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of New Covenant

2017 has been a difficult year for many of us. We have watched horrific events in our country – shootings, protests, natural disasters – and many have felt helpless. The Rev. Fred Rogers once said that we should look for the helpers and that is where we can find hope. Let us ponder our roles as helpers in these difficult times.

I used these words as the opening thoughts for a national mid-council gathering worship service. As I ponder 2017 here in the Presbytery of New Covenant, we have had some challenges. We have been living into our new identity as a “smaller” presbytery – in membership numbers, not in geography. We have been in a steep learning curve with many new committee leaders and the absence of a general presbyter. We are making do with less as our smaller congregations can't provide the financial support that we had in years past when we relied on the beneficence of those that were larger but have left us. We are in the beginning of the recovery from a massive natural disaster called “Harvey”. It has been a challenging

year!

We humans tend to be fairly resilient. In the words of the band Chumbawamba, “I get knocked down, but I get up again, you're never going to keep me down.” I found this definition from Psychology Today:

“Resilience is that ineffable quality that allows some people to be knocked down by life and come back stronger than ever. Rather than letting failure overcome them and drain their resolve, they find a way to rise from the ashes. Psychologists have identified some of the factors that make someone resilient, among them a positive attitude, optimism, the ability to regulate emotions, and the ability to see failure as a form of helpful feedback. Even after misfortune, resilient people are blessed with such an outlook that they are able to change course and soldier on.”

As we are going through these difficult times, I wonder how I am displaying a positive attitude in a way that is not harmful to others. I am trying not to say, “at least you didn't have this happen” in order to minimize

their circumstances. I tend to be optimistic and I hope that my “sunny attitude” isn't offensive to those who are not quite so hopeful. I try to regulate my emotions, but I can get sucked in by other's stories. I see failure as a form of helpful feedback, but I don't like to fail.

And I imagine that many of you are like me in all of this. Things are different, and perhaps a bit uncomfortable, but we will get through this and be richer for our experiences. I might not have experienced flooding at my home or at our offices, but I can be present to you in your recovery. This becomes a challenge for all of us during these challenging times. How can we be present to each other to support each other as we go through this together?

I expect that 2018 will offer challenges to us again. Perhaps some of the tumult will calm down, but it may not. There's a poem by Warsan Shire that says: “Later that night I held an atlas in my lap, ran my fingers across the whole world and whispered where does it hurt? It answered everywhere everywhere everywhere.” There are many people out there who hurt. How can we respond offering words of hope and healing to each other and to the world? How can we share the gospel message that each person is loved, and valued, and worthy? May you find resilience despite your circumstances.

## Conversations and Tools for Building Congregational Vitality

The Presbytery of New Covenant's Evangelism and Church Growth Committee is sponsoring a FREE event,



Kathryn Threadgill

“Conversation and Tools for Building Congregational Vitality” with Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, Associate for Church Vitality, PC(USA). on

Friday, November 17. The event will be held at the Presbytery Center, 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Topics for the event will include Introductions to the Revitalization Initiative, Understanding Our Challenges as Leaders of Churches in the 21st Century, What is the Challenge of Being a Vital Congregation?, 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality, Neighborhood Analysis through Dwelling in the Word

and Show Us Your Marks - using story mapping and living out the 7 marks in congregations.

The event will adjourn no later than 1:00 p.m and all interested parties are invited to a self-hosted lunch and further informal discussion. Register no later than Wednesday, November 15 by calling or emailing Mary Marcotte at 713-526-2585, ext. 224 or [mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org).



## Mary's Musings

Mary Marcotte, Associate General Presbyter  
Presbytery of New Covenant

### Musing no more

Friends - what an extraordinary opportunity it has been to serve in your midst for the last 13 years! As I look back through my files, I believe this is the 90<sup>th</sup> Mary's Musings I've written. These columns have been my way of reaching out to each of you and sharing a bit of information and I hope a bit of inspiration about the joys and challenges of shaping disciples and serving the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Now it is time to say goodbye. Back in May of this year, about six weeks after my announced plan for retirement and move to part time service, my husband and I made a long-planned trip to France, sandwiched between two brief visits with our grandsons in England. It was one of those wonderful treks filled with surprises, joy and wonder. One of the destinations I particularly anticipated was a visit to Mont. St. Michel, off the coast of Britany. The Mont has captured my imagination ever since I first read about it back in my high school years.

Construction on this medieval pilgrimage site began in 966 and over several centuries construction continued, soaring every upward on the tiny little island. In medieval times it was completely cut off from the mainland at high tide and today it is still surrounded by a vast plain

of quicksand and open spaces. One approaches from a distant parking area that limits traffic on the approach. On our visit, we made the long approach in a horse drawn trolley, watching the looming structure seemingly grow larger and larger as we drew near. The clapping of horse hoofs, the call of sea birds, and whistling wind filled the vast, quiet landscape. The walled medieval city itself was noisy with tourists' voices bouncing off the walls of small shops and cafes crowded into old market stalls. At that point we began the very steep walk upwards toward the Mont's crowning gem, the Benedictine Abbey.

We climbed and climbed and climbed through spiraling stairs and uneven ramps until we had almost reached the last ascent - 200 steps, seemingly curving straight up, no handrails in sight. And that is when I knew I was done. Done. Finished. I could go no further. I sent my protesting and encouraging husband upward with my camera and waited for his return, watching the many pilgrims stream past me. Later that evening I asked Mike if I had wimped out too soon and he confirmed that I'd probably made the wise choice. He brought me pictures and postcards and a special souvenir coin and I settled for getting close and being able to people watch as the young and the old were irresistibly drawn by some sense of the holy. I made my peace with getting to

the Mont being enough. While I did not reach the summit to be able to look back over the vast plain through which we'd traveled, it was enough. The journey to that particular view I could leave to others.

I am overcome with gratitude for the many opportunities we have had to serve together as we seek to be faithful servants of Christ as together we are building up the body of Christ here in southeast Texas. Our beloved presbytery is a very different place than it was back in November 2004 when you elected me to serve you. My position description was different then as well. Through the intervening years I've had the joy of getting to know many of you, of hearing and celebrating your stories of congregational vitality, of seeing new congregations born and old congregations die with dignity after leaving a powerful legacy. I've had the opportunity to grow not only in the breadth of my skills and expertise, but in my faith as well.

As we prepare to enter 2018, the Presbytery of New Covenant will continue to change and evolve in order to faithfully do God's work in a changing landscape. I'd hoped to see exactly what that particular shape and future would look like, but I am content to live in the mystery for now. I trust we will continue to value relationships and hospitality; that we will be shaped by grace and we will not fear the future that is still unfolding. The future is after all, in God's hands. Our call - and my prayer - is simply to be faithful. Trust and support your leaders. Work together to accomplish what you can't do alone. Pray deeply and seek God's guidance. And all will be well.

*Thank you Mary Marcotte for serving the Presbytery of New Covenant  
as the Associate General Presbyter for 13 years.*

*You are all invited to wish Mary well in her retirement at the Christmas Open House on December 7  
from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Presbytery Center, 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston*

#### 2018 Presbytery Meeting

Saturday, March 17 at  
First Presbyterian Church, Conroe

#### Next Connections Copy Deadline

The next deadline is Tuesday, December 5 for the January/February 2018 issue.  
Send articles and photos to Lynn Hargrove at [lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org).

# community news & highlights

HURRICANE HARVEY

## St. Luke's PC, Houston

By Mary Ann White

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, Houston

Over 37 people who were forced from their homes from the flooding of Harvey took refuge at St. Luke's PC, Houston from Sunday to Monday, August 27-28. They also had a few cats and at least one beautiful dog. We had several families stay a night while some were evacuated to George R. Brown by a Blackhawk helicopter. One

neighbor brought over a meal for those who were stranded overnight and our community showed it's resiliency as our street became a rushing river. After the flooding subsided and Harvey had moved on, St. Luke's created "Neighbor Ride" as a way to help our neighbors get around if they lost their car to the flood. It was a great help to have a way to get to the grocery store, bank, and doctor's appointments and a great way for neighbors to get to know neighbors.

## First PC, Orange

By Rev. Mike Umbenhauer, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church, Orange

I don't believe that I expected to ever utter the words, "Today, I climbed into a boat from my front porch"...but on the morning of August 30<sup>th</sup>, that is what my family and I did. We got into 2 boats (driven by our friends) and took a 10 minute ride down our street to a dry place. During that boat ride, I said out loud, but I thought, only to myself: "I left my diabetic medicine back in the house". One of the drivers of the boat said he would go back and get it on the next run. To be honest, it wasn't that I needed it immediately... I wasn't even worried about it... I knew I could just order some more in the coming days. So imagine my surprise when that driver finds me at the shelter some 2 hours later and hands me a large mixing bowl with more than just my prescriptions in it. There were two rocks in there as well. I had forgotten about those rocks. Our family had painted some scripture verses on them as reminders to us that "as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord". I asked him why he grabbed those rocks and he said, "I know you are a

pastor and that you shouldn't be going through this without the Word." While Hurricane Harvey took much of our home and belongings, it did NOT take God's presence away from me in the boat nor at the shelter or anywhere else for that matter. Those two rocks now sit by my medicine - I dare say they are way more important than those pills.



Umbenhauer cars in water

## St. John's PC, Houston

Recovering from a catastrophic event takes time and patience to allow healing to occur. To help in that effort, St. John's offered our community a way to continue that process. Everyone was invited to join us for a special "Recovering from Harvey" Healing Service on Sunday, October 22, 2017. All were welcomed regardless of their faith journey to receive prayers of healing and encouragement. Individual opportunities for prayers with elders were also offered.

"Circles of Hope" was also offered after the service on October 22 as a way for people who had suffered loss as a result of Harvey to share their stories in a safe and confidential environment. A circle with 4 or 5 other people and a leader shared their experiences with others. There is no doubt that damage to and loss of property can leave anyone feeling overwhelmed, hopeless and exhausted. Making decisions can become more difficult because sleep and normal routines have been interrupted. Common signs of stress also include confused thinking, near tears, a need to tell stories again and again, anger, grief and questioning "why?" to name just a few. Research has shown that sharing stories of loss and grief is an effective way to foster hope and healing. By listening to other people's stories, you may gain greater understanding of how others were impacted as well as consider new ideas and resources on how to handle certain decisions you have moving forward. By relating your story to others, you may build hope in yourself and in others that indeed you will recover and heal from this experience.

# notes of hope from the children

HURRICANE HARVEY

**UNITED CHURCH**  
**columbine**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance,

Our children here at Columbine United Church have spent the last few Sunday mornings learning about the disasters that have taken place in both Houston and now Florida. The children are learning all about natural disasters but more importantly learning about how they can help their neighbors. Our children have taken the time during Sunday School to pray over the victims of Hurricane Harvey and now Hurricane Irma. In doing so, the children desired to reach out to these victims and let them know that our prayers are with them. This envelope contains many of those letters and prayers for the families affected by the events over the past few weeks. Our best thought resource was to send this envelope to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in order to ensure that these warm letters find their way into the hands of those in Houston who need it most.

As a church, we are proud of our members here at Columbine for coming together and reaching out to help in every way possible. Everything from crisis buckets, hygiene kits, hand-written notes and many prayers on Sunday morning have been at work here at Columbine. We wish to inform the victims in Houston that they are not alone in this and that God is at work in the midst of chaos. Our thoughts and our prayers go out to anyone and everyone affected by this tragedy.

Blessings,

*Dani Way*  
Dani Way  
Minister of Children & Youth Services  
dani@columbinechurch.org  
Columbine United Church  
6375 S Platte Canyon Rd.  
Littleton, CO 80128



I hope you feel  
better. Love Josie. I am  
six years old

From Morgan To you  
to you Good !!  
♡ 😊 ☆

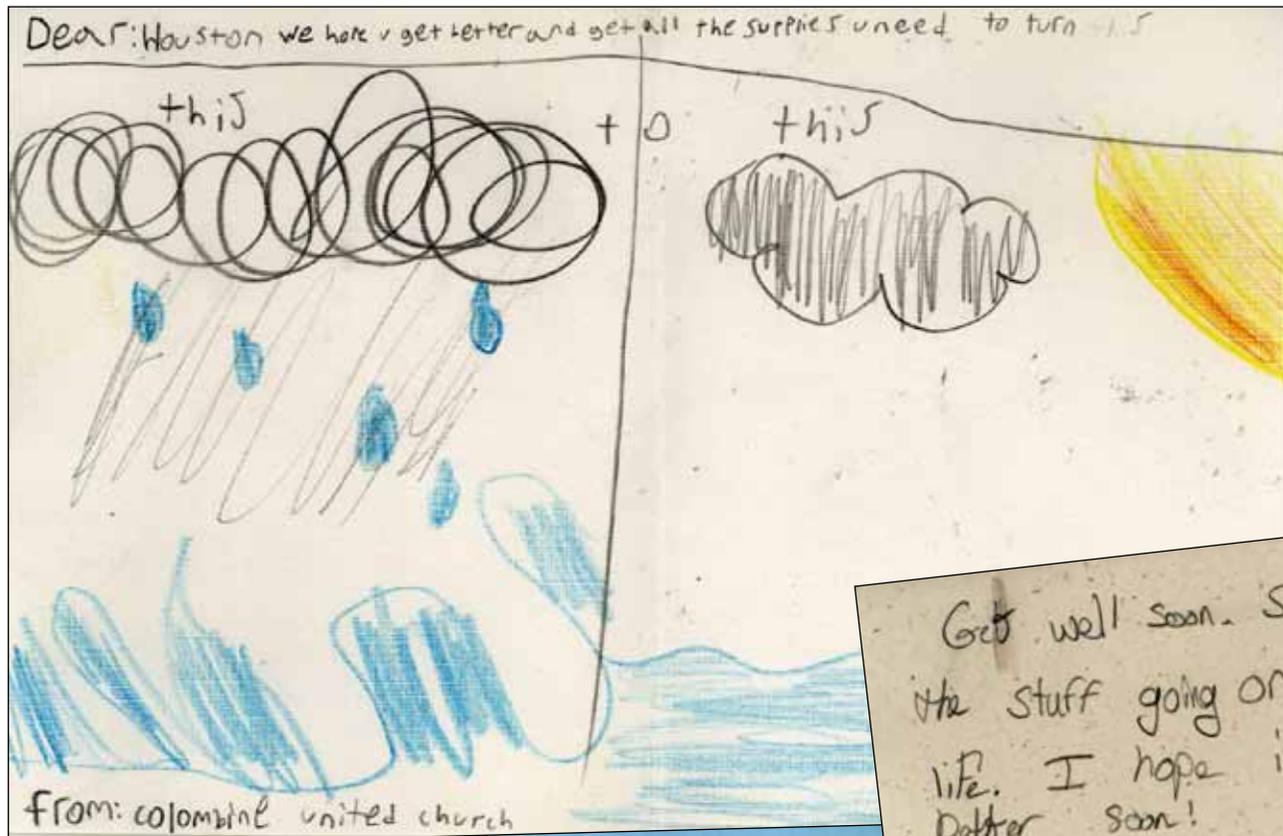
MARIKA  
I HOPE YOU  
CAN GET YOU  
BACK HOME  
SOON

I hope you can get back to the  
comfort of your home very soon. I am praying  
for you.  
I am sorry for all of your loses.  
I also wish that you can resume your happy  
lives.  
Stay warm, healthy, loved, and keep persevering.!!  
Remember, God is with you even  
when times are rough.  
-Nora  
Believe  
The Lord is my Light  
and my Salvation  
Psalm 27

Dear Houston,  
I hope y'all are recovering.  
What happened was terrible.  
I'm praying for you  
guys.  
With love,  
Gabrielle

# of Columbine United Church

HURRICANE HARVEY



Get well soon. Sorry for all the stuff going on in your life. I hope it gets better soon!

Dear Houston,

I have heard that you guys are in some hard times right now. You have a lot of rain, Colorado hasn't had a half of what you have had. I'm praying for you all, and I hope Houston will be rebuilt and better than ever. Please fight back, I love mail :)

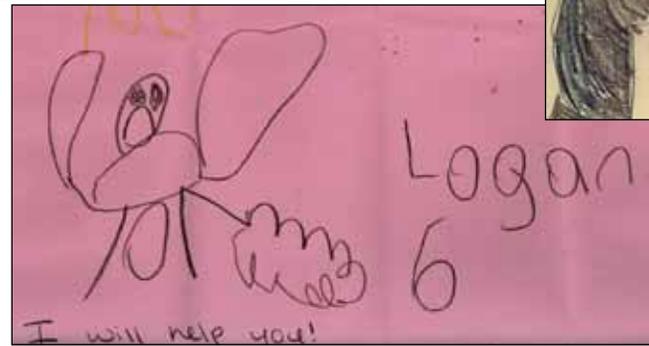
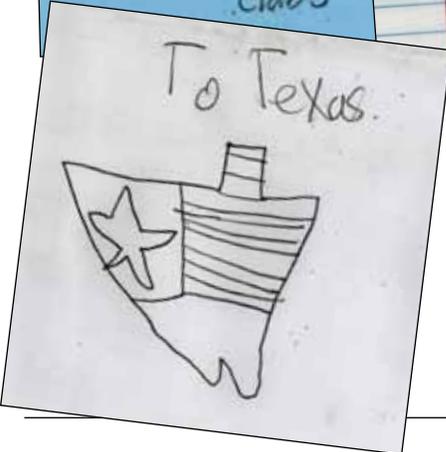
With prays,  
Crab's

Hello,  
I am D.J. I hope you can have a home and all the stuff you want and also stuff that you need

Dear Texas,  
I am sorry for the damage that was done, and I would love to help



-Ella B 10 years old  
Columbine united church Denver CO



## Heifer International and Disasters

*Isaiah 58:10 (NLT): Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a rebuilders of walls and a restorer of homes.*

When Heifer International began its work 73 years ago, our goal was monumental but simple: end hunger and poverty by providing a sustainable source of food and income in the form of a farm animal. Over the years, this evolved into much more diverse work to support small-scale family farming – empowering women, providing clean water, environmental sustainability, and more, because we realize that a true solution to hunger and poverty must be a multi-pronged approach. There is no one size fits all solution. Now we find our work changing again.

As the world warms, the result is extreme weather and climate events, such as floods and droughts, heat waves and hurricanes. The impact of these is felt first among the poor who tend to live in the most disaster prone areas and depend on smallholder farms to feed their families. Over the past 17 years, concerned groups, such as Heifer, have banded together and cut hunger and poverty in half primarily by investing in agricultural solutions because we know simple food aid does not end hunger. However, these climate change-induced weather conditions are threatening that progress and all the places Heifer International works.

Heifer has never been a disaster relief agency. This was and is not our mission, but as disaster and



Heifer Haiti helps after Hurricane Irma

eliminating hunger and poverty are inextricably linked, we must adapt to the changing climate. Our families in Nepal post-earthquake or in Haiti post-hurricane need us more than ever and our well-developed system of communication led by established in-country offices and staff puts us in a prime position to help communities recover.

For example, in August of this year, severe flooding devastated Nepal's main food-producing region and many people fled their homes and lacked food and clean drinking water. 80% of agricultural land was flooded, food crops and livestock were lost. Heifer Nepal, working in collaboration with 35 local farmer cooperatives and governments, provided relief supplies such as food, water, medicine and animal feed to more than 58,500 people, in 8 districts, both current project partners and other community members. Our teams on the ground helped assess the extent of the damage and coordinate aid to areas that others could not reach. In Kachanapur, the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry opted to distribute its relief supplies through Heifer's cooperatives due to our reliable and transparent process. Perhaps the most inspiring development was the Sangini Social Entrepreneurs Women's Cooperative,

which self-coordinated to distribute relief materials, such as noodles, water and rice, to flood-affected members. Heifer mobilized at least 15 other social entrepreneur women's cooperatives for distribution of relief packages. As a former parliamentarian said, "This kind of relief program mobilized through Cooperatives and governed by women is really exemplary and a novel practice... Women-led cooperatives coming to the front during such an emergency situation shows that Heifer has really empowered and equipped them with good leadership skills. It has contributed a lot in socio-economic transformation of the community and helped them to rise again after this serious disaster."

So now when you give to Heifer, not only are you supporting the work to provide life-giving animals to families that need a solution to perpetual hunger and poverty, but also you are helping communities recover from disaster. As the holidays approach, please consider a Heifer International gift in honor of anyone on your list. Whether you have never given before or you have given 100 times, your support is needed now more than ever because we are truly committed to ending hunger and poverty, no matter the circumstances. Reaching that goal requires all of us to work together, so thank you for supporting our work to date, and we appreciate your continued giving as we move into a new global climate.



# YOUTH NEWS



PYCC 2017-2018

## God is Good - All the Time!

Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC) is an opportunity for youth from congregations - large and small - to gather together and use their God given talents to worship God and celebrate one another in the best way we know how. It is one of the best things this Presbytery supports. Our PYCC team this year consists of 67 members from 22 churches within New

Covenant Presbytery. Each member serves on one of seven teams: Mission, Music, Curriculum, Recreation, A/V, Keynote, and Worship. These teams meet on a monthly basis to plan out our annual fall youth rally, and spring Conclaves events. They are currently working hard to provide all our area youth groups with a meaningful worship and mission experience at

our Rally on November 12th at First Presbyterian Church in Conroe. We are EXCITED and hope to see you there! Please remember to send your youth groups to Conroe with the hygiene kit items listed on the flyer of this publication: bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, 5-gallon buckets, band aids, nail clippers, combs, wash cloths, and hand towels.

# CONCLAVES 2018

FEBRUARY 23-25 OR MARCH 2-4

Whether you have a troubled past, an undecided future, or are dealing with difficulties in the present, it doesn't matter at CONCLAVES. Christ will assure that you are not crushed, in despair, persecuted, or abandoned. Come reclaim the strength of your faith at CONCLAVES!

**WHERE:** Camp Cho-Yeh  
2200 S Washington Ave.  
Livingston, TX

**WHO:** Middle and Senior High Youth  
(current 6th - 12th graders,  
plus adult sponsors 21 and older)

**COST:** \$135 per person  
Scholarships are available

# events and happenings



## November 3-4

Synod "Imagine" Event  
Irving, TX

## November 4

Refugee Workshop  
St. Philip, Houston

## November 12

Youth Rally  
First PC, Conroe

## November 17

Building Congregational Vitality  
Presbytery Offices

## November 17

Mary Marcotte's Last Day  
Presbytery Offices

## November 18

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery  
Northwoods, Houston

## November 23-34

Thanksgiving  
Presbytery Offices Closed

## December 2 & 9

Christmas Caroling on the Sam  
Houston  
Port of Houston (*if the silt clears*)

## December 5

Connections deadline

## December 7

Open House  
Presbytery Offices

## December 25

Christmas Day  
Offices Closed

## December 31

New Year's Eve  
Offices open to receive year end  
financial donations!

## Happy New Year

## January 1

New Year's Day  
Offices Closed

## Looking ahead

## February 23-25 and March 2-3

Youth Conclaves  
Camp Cho-Yeh

## Refugee Equipping Workshop

### Saturday November 4

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
St. Philip Presbyterian Church  
4807 San Felipe, Houston



Texas was second state in the U.S. in accepting the greatest number of refugees in 2016. Do you know where they came from, how many came, the screening process they had to navigate, how they were assimilated, or how you could have helped them succeed in this traumatic transition? The goal of this all-day workshop is to provide you with answers to these and many other questions. At the completion of the workshop you will have firsthand information on the refugee journey; you will know how Refugee Services of Texas assists refugees; and you will be provided with hands-on tools to enable you to ease the refugee's transition to life in Texas. Please follow this link ([SaintPhilip.net](http://SaintPhilip.net)) for a complete description of the workshop and to register. Or call the church office at 713-622-4807. Registration ends October 29th so don't delay.



You are invited to the Presbytery of New Covenant

## Christmas Open House

Thursday, December 7, 2017

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Presbytery Center

1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

Bring a favorite dessert or holiday treat.

Wish Mary Marcotte well in her retirement.

Visit with friends or make new ones. We look forward to seeing you.

RSVP to Patricia Brantley by December 1 to 713-526-2585, ext. 101  
or [pbrantly@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:pbrantly@pbyofnewcovenant.org)

# events and happenings

## Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators



### Connect! Parents as Faith-Nurturers

*Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Parents are the single most important influence on the spiritual lives of children. How can the church equip parents for their critical role as faith-nurturers? This workshop offers a model called *Connect*, a three-week series for parents and young children involving parent education components covering child faith development, rituals and traditions, church seasons, and questions kids ask. A description of the model, handouts for adaptation, and resources for supporting families in nurturing faith at home will be included.



Jenna Campbell

We welcome our presenter, Jenna Campbell. She is the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, OK. Jenna is a Certified Christian Educator and holds a Master's Degree in Christian Education from Union Presbyterian Seminary.

If you are a volunteer, paid staff person, teaching elder or just curious, you are invited, **Thursday, January 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at the Presbytery Center, 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston. It will be our pleasure to serve you lunch, complete with a beverage and dessert! Your RSVP will assist our planning. Please send replies to [anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com) by Monday morning, January 15.

This session will be facilitated by folks with a seasoned heart for education. Please feel free to contact any one of them if you have questions.

Jo Ann Currie ([jjcurrie5152@gmail.com](mailto:jjcurrie5152@gmail.com)) Kim Shrull ([kshrull@earthlink.net](mailto:kshrull@earthlink.net))  
Connie Nyquist ([lnyquist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lnyquist@sbcglobal.net)) Anne Wilson ([anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com))

## Support for those Affected by Hurricane Harvey

*Free Individual Trauma Care Services Available:*

In light of the recent traumatic events caused by Hurricane Harvey, the Hope and Healing Center & Institute is offering free mental health services to those who are experiencing a sense of loss or may be struggling with mental health issues. Mental Health Coaches are available to meet one-on-one, in English and Spanish, to help individuals process the devastation and trauma they may have experienced in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Mental Health Coaches are licensed mental health care providers who provide strengths-based recovery support to individuals living with any mental health difficulty or disorder.



To schedule an appointment with a Mental Health Coach offered free of charge, please go to our website to request an appointment online or call 713-871-1004.

## Seafarers' Christmas Boxes Ministry to the Port of Houston



Help the Chaplains of the Seafarers' Center gift seafarers during the upcoming holiday season. In 2016, 11,700 gift shoe boxes were placed on 517 ships with seafarers from 63 countries. These boxes are a highlight for those coming into the Port of Houston in November and December.

This is a list of items to be included in a shoe box:

- Shaving Cream & Disposable Razors
- Toothpaste, Toothbrush & Dental Floss
- Deodorant, Soap & Shampoo
- Band-Aids (Fabric)
- Combs
- Nail Clippers
- Kleenex & Q-Tips
- Lotion & Lip Balm
- Needle and Thread (Sewing Kits)
- Socks and T-Shirts and Baseball Caps
- Texas Souvenirs
- Address Books
- 2018 Calendars (Small)
- Gum, Hard Candy, Popcorn and Hot Chocolate
- Key Chains
- Flashlight w/batteries
- Pocket-size Notebooks, Pencils & Pens
- Paper, Envelopes & Postcards
- Cards, Puzzles & Games (Sudoku/Word Search)

Please bring your wrapped boxes to: the November Presbytery Meeting, the Presbytery Center or to the Seafarers Center at the Port, or contact Jim Keith [jwkjr45@hotmail.com](mailto:jwkjr45@hotmail.com)

Join us for Sunday morning "youth-style" worship followed by lunch, games, and a hands-on mission project. This event is FREE for youth ages 6th to 12th grade. Adult sponsors should accompany youth. Planned and led by the Presbytery's Youth Connection Council (PYCC).

# Youth Rally



*When?* Sunday, November 12, 2017  
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Where?* First Presbyterian Church  
2727 N Loop 336 W  
Conroe, TX

RSVP by Thursday, November 9 to Kristi Blankman [kblankman@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:kblankman@pbyofnewcovenant.org)

## MISSION PROJECT - HYGIENE BUCKETS



### HERE'S WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- 5 gallon bucket with lid
- Hand towel (approx. 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
- Washcloth
- Wide-tooth comb (removed from package)
- Nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted. Removed from package)
- Bar of soap (Bath size in wrapper)
- Toothbrush (in original package)
- Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips
- Tooth paste
- Shampoo and conditioner